



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon
District of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2010
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nd/>

CONTACT: BETH LANG
PHONE: (701) 530-2420
FAX: (701) 530-2421

Bottineau Man Sentenced for Possession of Child Pornography

MINOT - United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon announced that on

September 27, 2010, **Benjamin Thompson**, 24, Bottineau, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. Thompson pleaded guilty to the charge on June 29, 2010.

Judge Hovland sentenced Thompson to time served, to be followed by supervised release for ten years. In addition, Thompson will be placed at the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center for one year, to be followed by one year of home confinement with electronic monitoring. Thompson must register as a sex offender. Thompson was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

On March 26, 2009, two students at Burdick Job Corps in Minot, North Dakota, informed school officials that a computer they borrowed from Thompson had suspected child pornography on it. They turned the computer over to school officials, who called the police. Thompson agreed to a search of the computer. A forensic exam was conducted and revealed 59 videos and 52 still images.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Minot Police Department and North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

The United States Attorney's Office prosecuted this case under the Project Safe Childhood Initiative.

Assistant United States Attorney Gary Delorme prosecuted the case.

-end-